

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

ORDER NO. 12,265

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served December 29, 2009

COUPLES, LLC, Trading as COUPLES) Case No. MP-2009-134
LIMOUSINES, Suspension and)
Investigation of Revocation of)
Certificate No. 1417)

This matter is before the Commission on respondent's failure to respond to Order No. 12,217, served November 3, 2009, directing respondent to submit a statement verifying cessation of operations as of October 13, 2009, and corroborate the statement with copies of respondent's pertinent business records.

I. BACKGROUND

Under the Compact, a WMATC carrier may not engage in transportation subject to the Compact if the carrier's certificate of authority is not "in force."¹ A certificate of authority is not valid unless the holder is in compliance with the Commission's insurance requirements.²

Commission Regulation No. 58 requires respondent to insure the revenue vehicles operated under Certificate No. 1417 for a minimum of \$1.5 million in combined-single-limit liability coverage and maintain on file with the Commission at all times proof of coverage in the form of a WMATC Certificate of Insurance and Policy Endorsement (WMATC Insurance Endorsement) for each policy comprising the minimum.

Certificate No. 1417 was rendered invalid on October 13, 2009, when the \$1.5 million primary WMATC Insurance Endorsement on file for respondent terminated without replacement. Order No. 12,190 served October 13, 2009, noted the automatic suspension of Certificate No. 1417 pursuant to Regulation No. 58-12, directed respondent to cease transporting passengers for hire under Certificate No. 1417, and gave respondent thirty days to replace the terminated endorsement and pay the \$50 late fee due under Regulation No. 67-03(c) or face revocation of Certificate No. 1417.

Respondent subsequently paid the late fee on November 3, 2009 and submitted a \$1.5 million primary WMATC Insurance Endorsement on October 23, and the suspension was lifted in Order No. 12,217, but because the effective date of the new endorsement is October 23, 2009,

¹ Compact, tit. II, art. XI, § 6(a).

² Compact, tit. II, art. XI, § 7(g).

instead of October 13, 2009, the order gave respondent thirty days to verify cessation of operations as of October 13, 2009, in accordance with Regulation No. 58-14. And because respondent's only tariff is for service rendered to the public, the order gave respondent thirty days to corroborate the verification with copies of respondent's pertinent business records.

Respondent has yet to respond.

II. ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Considering that respondent has not denied operating its vehicle(s) on and after the suspension date, and considering that respondent has failed to produce the required documents, respondent shall have thirty days to show cause why the Commission should not assess a civil forfeiture against respondent, and/or suspend or revoke Certificate No. 1417, for knowingly and willfully conducting operations under an invalid/suspended certificate of authority and failing to produce documents as directed.³

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That respondent shall have thirty days to show cause why the Commission should not assess a civil forfeiture against respondent, and/or suspend or revoke Certificate No. 1417, for knowingly and willfully violating Article XI, Section 6(a), of the Compact, Regulation No. 58, and the orders issued in this proceeding.

2. That respondent may submit within 15 days from the date of this order a written request for oral hearing, specifying the grounds for the request, describing the evidence to be adduced and explaining why such evidence cannot be adduced without an oral hearing.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION; COMMISSIONERS CHRISTIE AND BRENNER:



William S. Morrow, Jr.
Executive Director

³ See *In re Olalekan Salami, t/a Startime Ventures*, No. MP-08-147, Order No. 11,690 (Nov. 19, 2008) (same).